[26th February 1929

Land Revenue

Inclusion of certain lands in the Kistna Eastern delta in the suspense list.

* 1467 *Q.*—Mr. D. NARAYANA RAJU : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state —

(*a*) whether it is a fact that some lands in the Kistna Eastern delta which are irrigable but not yet included in the regular ayacut are put in the suspense list by the Collector;

(*b*) if so, what the implication is in putting a field in the suspense list;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that when water is taken to the said fields penal assessment is generally levied in the first instance and that it is afterwards reduced to ordinary single rate on appeal or at the time of the jamabandi;

(*d*) whether Government are aware that the owners of fields in the suspense list are greatly harassed at every stage by Revenue subordinates;

(*e*) whether Government propose to abolish the suspense list and convert the affected lands into non-guaranteed wet allowing the ryots to raise wet crops at their risk and charging only single water-rate for the use of Government water;

(*f*) whether the Public Works Department authorities were consulted by the Collector when the suspense list of fields in the Kistna Eastern delta was prepared and whether the Public Works Department authorities agreed to the proposal; and

(*g*) whether it is a fact that the annual water applications for the fields in the suspense list are generally rejected by the Public Works Department authorities and if so, why?

A.—(*a*) *to* (*g*) The Government have no information. A report has been called for.

Fixing of the commutation rate in regard to the resettlement of the Godavari and Kistna districts.

* 1468 *Q.*—Mr. C. RAMASOMAYAJULU : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state with reference to the answer to clause (*b*) of question No. 358 answered on 8th October 1928 about the fixing of the commutation rate in regard to the resettlement of the Godavari and Kistna districts—

(*a*) for what reasons and under what circumstances the policy laid down in G.O. No. 881, Revenue, dated 30th July 1885, that the lowest rate touched by prices during the previous twenty non-famine years without any deduction should be accepted as a commutation rate has been modified and the present policy of fixing the average with certain deductions has been laid down;

(*b*) whether the change was due to any difficulties in the working of the principle as laid down in the Government Order of 1885 or to any agitation carried by the people, or whether it was due solely to the initiative of the Government;

(*c*) whether the Government intend to give effect to the policy laid down in the Government Order of 1885 during the present and future settlements; and

(*d*) if not, why not?

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A.—(*a*) & (*b*) G.O. No. 881, Revenue, dated 30th July 1885, did not lay down in the matter referred to any policy but an empirical rule devised, so far as can now be inferred, to produce a certain result in the case of the settlement of Madura in connexion with which settlement the Government Order was passed. When the next settlement, that of South Arcot, came under consideration, the absurdity of the proposed method as a means for arriving at a fair commutation rate for the next thirty years was apparent and that method was abandoned. No representations appear to have been received by Government in either connexion.

(*c*) No.

(*d*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to clauses (*a*) and (*b*).

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu :—" Sir, is it not a fact that this Government Order laid down that all future resettlement operations should be carried on in consonance with the terms of this Government Order ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" I must ask for notice, Sir."

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu :—" May I know why Government changed the policy enunciated in this Government Order in regard to the resettlement of South Arcot ? The answer given here does not contain any answer to this point. The answer merely says it was found to be absurd. I want the reasons why it was found absurd. That is my intention in putting this question and I find no answer here to it."

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" To take the lowest price in any one year of the last twenty years as a fair computation rate for the next thirty years is absurd."

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu :—" If that was the policy laid down by the Government Order, where is the necessity for changing it ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" Because the Government realized that it was absurd. (Laughter.)"

Mr. C. Ramasomayajulu :—" May I take it that the Government Order laid down an absurd proposal ? "

The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks :—" Yes, Sir. (Laughter.)"

Minor Irrigation

Transfer of minor irrigation supervisors.

*1469 *Q.*—Mr. S. Arpudaswami Udayar : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the minor irrigation supervisors are working in the same district throughout the period of their service ;

(*b*) whether the Government will be pleased to place on the table a statement showing the number of years each supervisor has been serving continuously in the districts of Trichinopoly, Tanjore, Madura and Tinnevelly ; and

(*c*) whether there are instances of these supervisors being transferred from one district to another in the interests of efficient administration ?